

Evidentiary document # 5138.

IN THE MATTER OF WAR CRIMES COMMITTED
BY THE JAPANESE IN BURMA.

A F F I D A V I T.

I, Lieutenant-Colonel EDWARD LLEWELLYN ST. JOHN COUCH, Royal Army Service Corps, with present address at HQ Allied Land Forces South East Asia, Singapore, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I am a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England and I now hold the appointment of Assistant Judge Advocate General, War Crimes Legal Section, Allied Land Forces South East Asia.
2. I have been in correspondence with HQ BURMA Command concerning the alleged massacre by the Japanese in June 1945 of a number of women and children civilian inhabitants of the village of EBAING in Burma.
3. Investigations are far from complete and up to date I have received only three statements from eye-witnesses; copies of the said statements being now produced and shown to me and marked "EBAING A", "EBAING B", and "EBAING C" respectively and herewith annexed.
4. I have personally examined the said copies with the said original statements and that the last mentioned were received at this HQ from HQ BURMA COMMAND.

SWORN by the said Edward Llewellyn)
St. John COUCH at Singapore this)
17th day of April 1946.)

(Signed) E.L. St.J. COUCH.
Lt.Col.

before me,

(Signed) ? (i/c War Crimes Legal Section.)
An officer detailed by the
Commander-in-Chief ALFSEA
to interrogate witnesses.

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Evidentiary document # 5138.

["EBAING A".]

THIS is the copy statement marked "EBAING A" referred to in the Affidavit of Lt. Col. Edward Llewellyn St. John COUCH hereunto annexed and made before me this 17th day of April 1946.

(Signed) ?
Colonel.

OHN MYAING (25 years) d/o UNCE and MA CHAN THA of EBAING village, having been duly affirmed states:

I recognise this man (W.O. TOYAO YASUMASA) and pointed him out on the identification parade. On about the 24th June 1945, early in the morning this man with another Japanese soldier came to the house where I was living. The other soldiers could speak Burmese and told us that we had to go to the phongyi- myaung to collect permits for cultivation. This was done only to allay our suspicions. I had slept the night in U Nga Ma Lay's house and many others had come there for the night as they were frightened of the Japs who had arrived the previous evening. Those two soldiers took all the womenfolk and children to Ah Myain's house where we found about 30 women and children. There were a number of Japs near Ah Myaing's house. We were pushed inside and after about two hours we were fired on by machine guns. The firing continued until all the crying and meaning had ceased. I was wounded in my right hip, under my left arm and on my right hand. If any one cried out the firing started up again. When everything had been quiet for some time smoke began filling the room and one side of the house was on fire. I tore up some floor boards and escaped. After running about 30 yards I was fired on by the Japs but not hit. I met Ma San Theen in the evening and stayed together in the jungle. The next morning two Karens, whose names I do not remember, found us and carried me to Minkathit village where I remained three months, recovering from my wounds; I then returned to my sister's house near EBAING.

This statement has been read over to the witness in a language she understands and has been acknowledged correct.

X
Left Thumb Print of
OHN MYAING.
identi

Recorded by me on 23rd November 1945 at an /tication parade at MOULMEIN JAIL.

(Signed) G.I. LEWIS.
Capt.
3 Pln. BIC. Att: 17 Div.

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["EBAING A".]

THIS is the copy statement marked "EBAING A" referred to in the Affidavit of Lt. Col. Edward Llewellyn St. John COUCH hereunto annexed and made before me this 17th day of April 1946.

(Signed) ?
Colonel.

OHN MYAING (25 years) d/o UNGE and MA CHAN THA of EBAING village, having been duly affirmed states;

I recognise this man (W.O. TOYAO YASUMASA) and pointed him out on the identification parade. On about the 24th June 1945, early in the morning this man with another Japanese soldier came to the house where I was living. The other soldiers could speak Burmese and told us that we had to go to the phongyi- kyaung to collect permits for cultivation. This was done only to allay our suspicions. I had slept the night in U Nga Mula's house and many others had come there for the night as they were frightened of the Japs who had arrived the previous evening. Those two soldiers took all the womenfolk and children to Ah Nyain's house where we found about 30 women and children. There were a number of Japs near Ah Myaing's house. We were pushed inside and after about two hours we were fired on by machine guns. The firing continued until all the crying and moaning had ceased. I was wounded in my right hip, under my left arm and on my right hand. If any one cried out the firing started up again. When everything had been quiet for some time smoke began filling the room and one side of the house was on fire. I tore up some floor boards and escaped. After running about 30 yards I was fired on by the Japs but not hit. I met Ma San Theen in the evening and stayed together in the jungle. The next morning two Karens, whose names I do not remember, found us and carried me to Minkathit village where I remained three months, recovering from my wounds; I then returned to my sister's house near EBAING.

This statement has been read over to the witness in a language she understands and has been acknowledged correct.

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(Signed) G.I. LEWIS.
Capt.

3 Pln. BIC. Att: 17 Div.

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["EBAING B"]

This is the copy statement marked "EBAING B" referred to in the Affidavit of Lt. Col. Edward Llewellyn St. John COUCH hereunto annexed and made before me this 17th day of April 1946.

(Signed) ?
Colonel.

MA SAN THEEN (aged 20 years) d/o CHIN LALA and CHAN LAY of EBAING village, having been duly affirmed states;

I recognise this man (Corp. TOYAZAKI HIROSHI) and pointed him out on the identification parade. On about the 24th June 1945, early in the morning before dawn, he came to our house with two others. With me in the house were five people, my mother, two sisters and brother. My mother and two sisters and myself were tied together by our wrists and taken by these three soldiers to AYE MG's house. This man whom I recognised took away one of my sisters from AYE MG's house and I have not seen her since; she was probably killed with the others in AH NYAING's house. AYE MG's house was crowded with women and children. After some time the japs started firing at the house with machine guns. While the people were with me shouted and cried the firing continued. I was hit on my right elbow but was saved from death as I was under other bodies. When the house started to burn I jumped out through the window and ran off into the jungle where towards evening I met OHN NYAING who was badly hurt. The next morning we were found by two Karen men who took us to MINKATHIT village.

This statement has been read over to the witness in a language she understands and has been acknowledged correct.

X
Left Thumb print of
MA SAN THEEN.

Recorded by me on 23rd Nov. 1945 at an identification parade held at MOULTIN JAIL.

(Signed) G.I. LEWIS.
Capt.
3 Pln. B.I.C. Attd. 17 Div.

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Evidentiary document # 5138.

["EBAING C".]

THIS is the copy statement marked "EBAING C" referred to in the Affidavit of Lt. Col. Edward Llewellyn St. John COUCH hereunto annexed and made before me this 17th day of April 1946.

(Signed) ?
COLONEL.

AH YI d/o Ah Nyain and Nan Di of Ebaing, having been duly affirmed states:

I recognise this man (KURURA SHIRO) and pointed him out on the identification parade. On the 24th June 1945, before dawn he came to my house. He came with another soldier. Another girl, AH YONE was with me in the house. This Japanese soldier tied my left wrist with cord and led me out of the house; the other soldier did the same to AH YONE. We were taken through the compound towards AYE IG's house. AH YONE and her escort was separated from us in the jungle. As I followed this man I freed my wrist and ran off into the jungle. He fired after me but did not hit me. I ran about a mile from the village and stayed in the jungle for two days without food. I then went to a Karen's house in the jungle and next day he took me to my sister's house in KYONSAUK.

This statement has been read over to the witness in a language she understands and has been acknowledged correct.

X
Left Thumb Print of
AH YI.

Recorded by me on 23rd Nov. 1945 at an identification parade held at MOULMAIN JAIL.

(Signed) G.I. LEWIS.
Capt.
3 Pln. B.I.C. Att: 17 Div.